

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1 and cancel claims 13-15 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Thus, allowable claims 1-12 and 16-38 are pending. No new matter is involved.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 1-12 and 16-38 are allowed. Further, Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiner O'Neill in the January 5, 2005 telephone interviews. Applicants incorporate a separate record of the substance of the interviews into the following remarks. Specifically, Applicants cancel claims 13-15, such that claims 1-12 and 16-38 will be allowed.

Entry of the amendment is proper under 37 CFR § 1.116(b) because the amendment merely cancels claims and corrects an informality that does not change the scope of claim 1. Additionally, entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR § 1.116 because the amendment (a) places the application in condition for allowance as indicated by Examiner O'Neill during the January 5 telephone conference; (b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Applicants thus respectfully request entry of the amendment.

The Office Action rejects claims 13-15 under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 13-15. Accordingly the rejection is moot. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

For at least the aforementioned reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application should be passed to issue with claims 1-12 and 16-38.

Should the examiner believe that anything further is needed to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Jesse O. Collier
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JAO:JOC/tea

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: January 7, 2005

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